

Inclusion Corner

Try it Out!

A small, spiral notebook of lined paper with space for the date and brief comments can be used to share important information. You can pass along observations about a child's experiences day-to-day in your program, and the child's parents can write about what happens at home, comment about child care activities, or answer/ask questions about what you have written. Either of you may tuck in a child's picture or drawing. The notebook travels from school to home and back with the child's belongings.



These notebooks can be used to alert each other to changes in the child or to follow up important discussions. After a conversation about toilet training, for example, a teacher might write a note that summarizes the discussion and attach an article or the name of a book on toilet learning. The child's progress towards independence in toileting at home and in the program could be recorded as each milestone is reached.

The notebook should never be a substitute for personal communication, but it is an excellent tool that promotes open and frequent communication between parents and providers. Keeping a notebook for children enrolled in your program can be a wonderful way for parents of children with disabilities to note their child's progress and a way for both of you to share mutual experiences. This record can quickly become a treasured part of a family's experience in your program.
Taken from CC+.

If you would like more ideas on how to best serve children with special needs in your program, please contact Amy Franklin, Inclusion Specialist at 573-986-6842.

Congratulations to Paulette Smith (Best Friends Learning Center LLC) in Imperial, **Dianne Sommer** (Sommerskool Early Childhood Development LLC) in Washington, **Nikki Randol** (Little Friends LLC) in Jackson and **Sommer Carpenter** (Sommer Schools) in Poplar Bluff our July, August and September winners. Remember, when you let me know of vacancies, I will mention you specifically to the families seeking child care in your area. **Keep those calls coming in!**

*Remember, children learn through play!
Happy playing!*

- Karen McDougall, Referral Coordinator

H1N1 and Child Care: Resources to Help You Prepare for, Plan and Respond to a Possible Outbreak

A dangerous form of the flu virus, known as H1N1, continues to spread throughout the United States. As parents, providers, and child care professionals, it is particularly important that we prepare and plan for a potential swine flu outbreak. Young children are particularly vulnerable to the illness and often times experience serious complications. Consequently, it is important that we protect the children in child care centers, family child care homes and schools, as they accommodate a large proportion of our young children.

To help you prepare for, plan and respond to a possible H1N1 outbreak, NACCRRRA has compiled the following resources for your use:

Information for Caregivers of Young Children

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed **guidelines for how child care providers in all settings can help prevent the spread of swine flu**. *Note: Conditions and situations are changing rapidly and the recommendations could change over time.* **Website:** www.cdc.gov/h1n1/childcare.

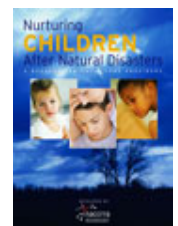
The CDC has also developed : **guidelines for school (K-12) and Child Care Facilities in Response to Swine Flu Virus**.

The CDC has also developed a fact sheet entitled **Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs** (25 KB) that can be posted in child care settings or distributed to parents.

The CDC has developed a **Q&A for caregivers** that addresses the most commonly asked questions regarding swine flu such as: What is swine flu; What are the symptoms; How can one keep from getting it; etc.

The CDC has also developed a publication entitled *Getting Prepared for a Flu Pandemic: A Planning Kit for Child Care Providers*, which gives providers the tools and resources to plan, prepare and respond to a flu pandemic. **Coming soon!**

NACCRRRA has developed a resource for child care providers entitled **Nurturing Children After Disasters: A Booklet for Child Care Providers** to help them plan and prepare for general disasters.
Website: www.naccrra.org



The Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) has developed a checklist entitled **Child Care and Preschool Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist (PDF)** to help child care programs prepare for the effects of a flu pandemic. **Website:** www.flu.gov

The CDC also developed a document entitled **Preventing the Spread of Influenza (the Flu) in Child Care Settings: Guidance for Administrators, Care Providers, and Other Staff** that explains specific ways in which individuals working in child care settings can prevent the spread of the flu.

